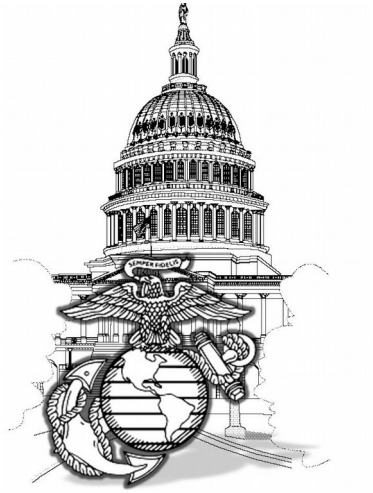


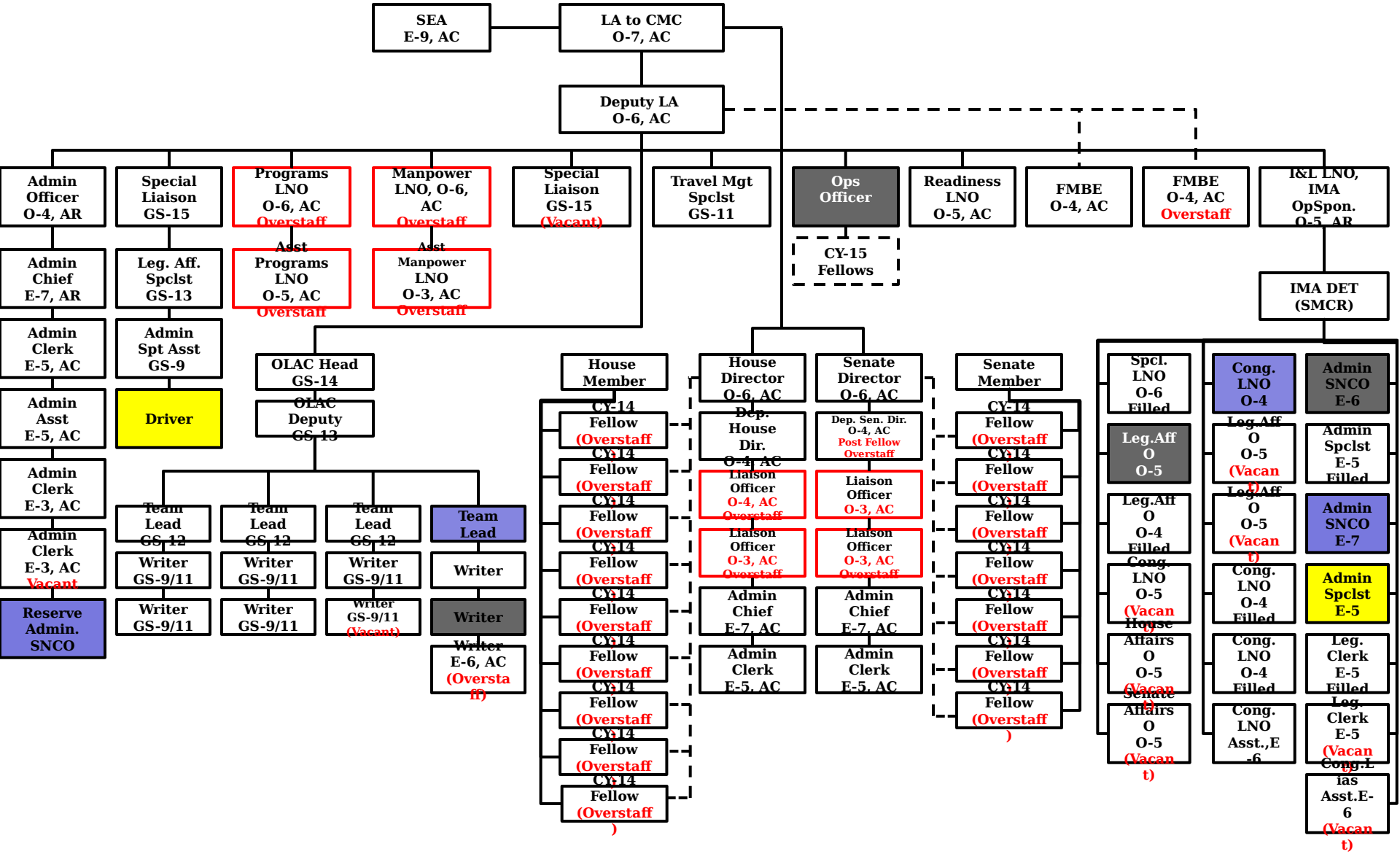
Office of Legislative Affairs Congressional Inquiries/Special Interest Correspondence (CONGRINTS)

Mr. Mike Sapronetti Deputy, OLAC

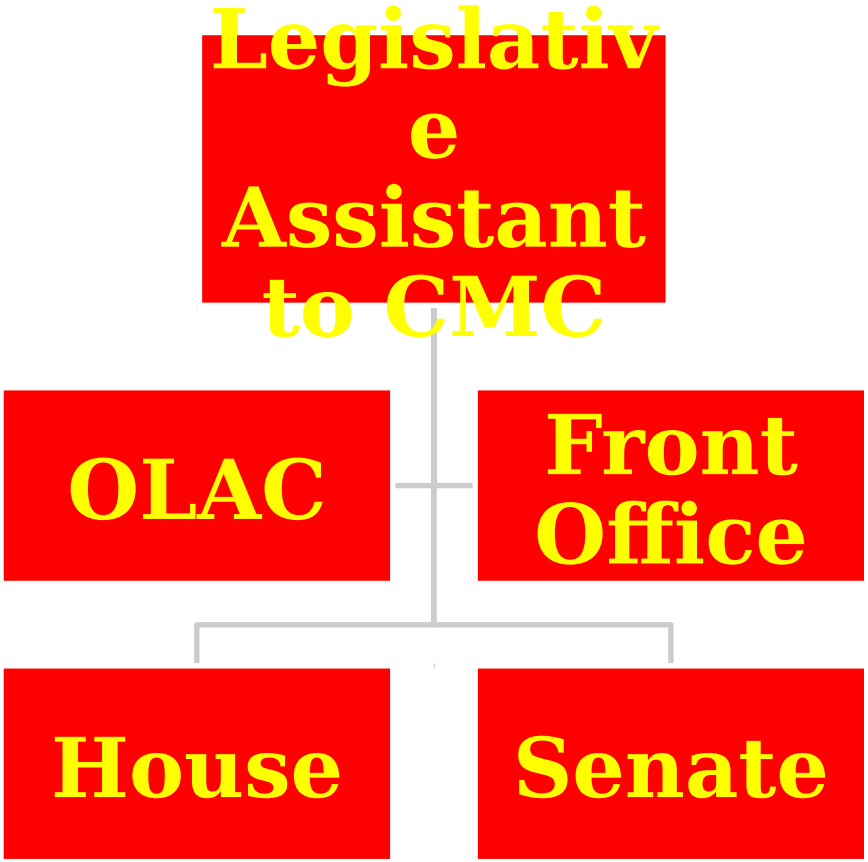
Deputy Legislative Assistant to CMC

Brigadier General David J. Furness

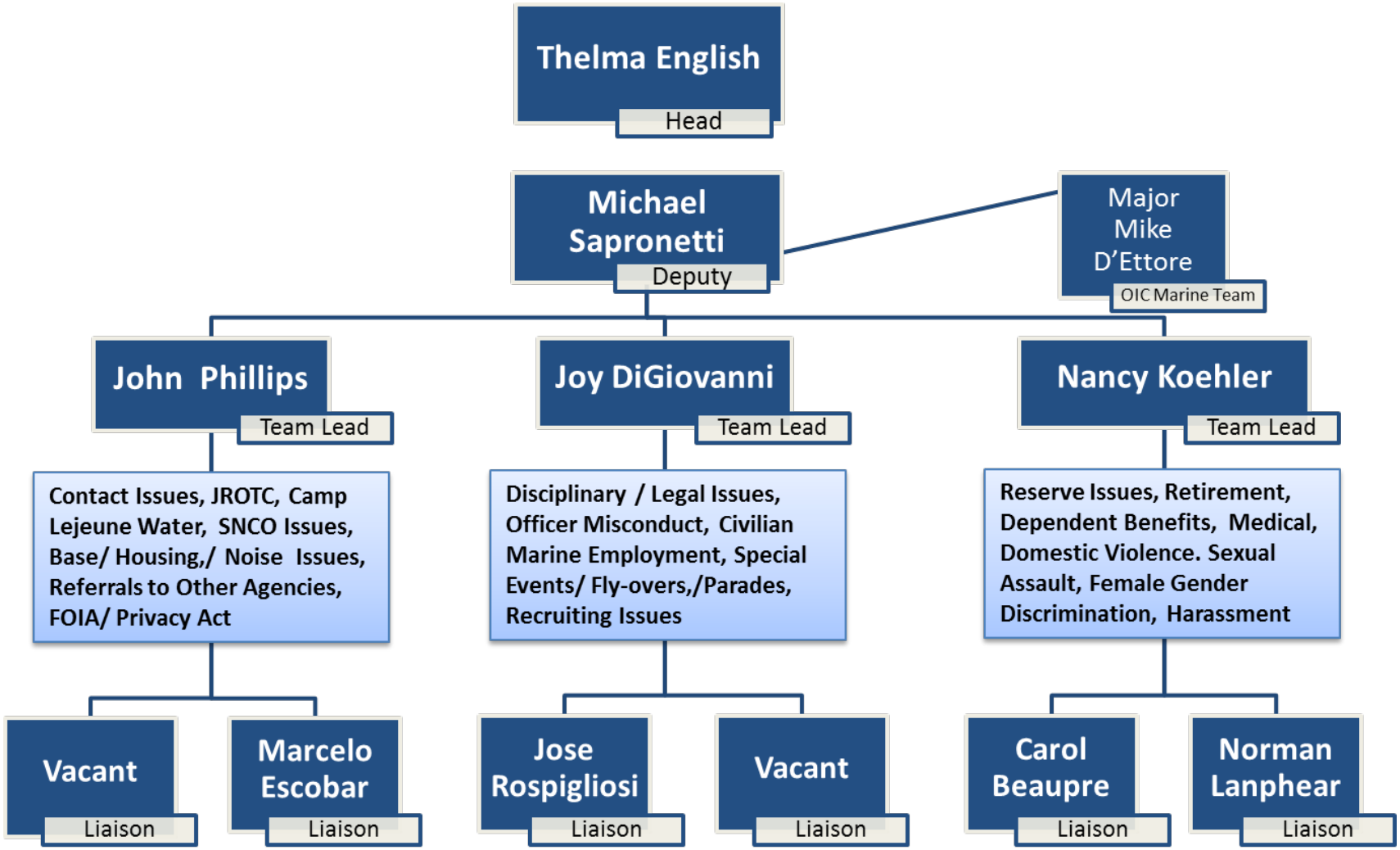
Office of Legislative Affairs Organizational Chart



OLA Organization



OLAC


Thelma English
Head
Michael Sapronetti
Deputy
Major Mike D'Ettore
OIC Marine Team
John Phillips
Team Lead
Joy DiGiovanni
Team Lead
Nancy Koehler
Team Lead
Contact Issues, JROTC, Camp Lejeune Water, SNCO Issues, Base/ Housing,/ Noise Issues, Referrals to Other Agencies, FOIA/ Privacy Act
Disciplinary / Legal Issues, Officer Misconduct, Civilian Marine Employment, Special Events/ Fly-overs,/Parades, Recruiting Issues
Reserve Issues, Retirement, Dependent Benefits, Medical, Domestic Violence. Sexual Assault, Female Gender Discrimination, Harassment
Vacant
Liaison
Marcelo Escobar
Liaison
Jose Rospigliosi
Liaison
Vacant
Liaison
Carol Beaupre
Liaison
Norman Lanphear
Liaison

OLAC Mission

The mission of the Office of Legislative Affairs Correspondence (OLAC) is to provide timely and accurate responses to Congressional inquiries on behalf of the Commandant of the Marine Corps.

OLAC is responsible for the staffing, research, analysis, and formulation of official responses to written, telephonic, and electronic mail inquiries from members of Congress, their staffs, and Congressional Committees.

Congressional Interest (Congrint)

Congrints

All Congressional inquiries received by any Marine Corps organization falls under the cognizance of the CMC Office of Legislative Affairs Correspondence (OLA).

All congrints, regardless of origin, subject matter or method of receipt, must be forwarded to OLA for action and reply. Commands/HQMC agencies do not reply directly to Congress.

Congressional Inquiries (Congrints)

Who initiates Congrints?

- Current and former Marines
- Parents, siblings, spouses and other relatives of Marines
- Wanna-be Marines
- Civilian Marines (and their relatives)
- Concerned Citizens
- Members of Congress (MOCs)

Congressional Inquiries

Common Issues

Congressional Inquiries (Congrints)

Common Issues

- **Enlistment**
  - **Waiver Requests**
  - **Recruiter Allegations**
  - **DEP Discharges**
- **Command support of discharged Marines**
  - **DD 214, Seps Pay, Final Travel**
- **Dependent Issues**
- **Awards**
  - **Verification and Replacement**
  - **Requests for upgrade**
- **Records**
  - **Everything you could imagine**

Flagged Inquiries

- **Allegations of Sexual Assault**
- **Allegations of Hazing**
- **Allegations of Discrimination**
- **Allegations of Unlawful Command Influence**
- **Allegations against General Officers**
- **Officer Misconduct**

Congressional Inquiries (Congrints)

CMC Guidance

The guidance to Operating Forces and HQMC Agencies is contained in **MARADMIN 606/02**.

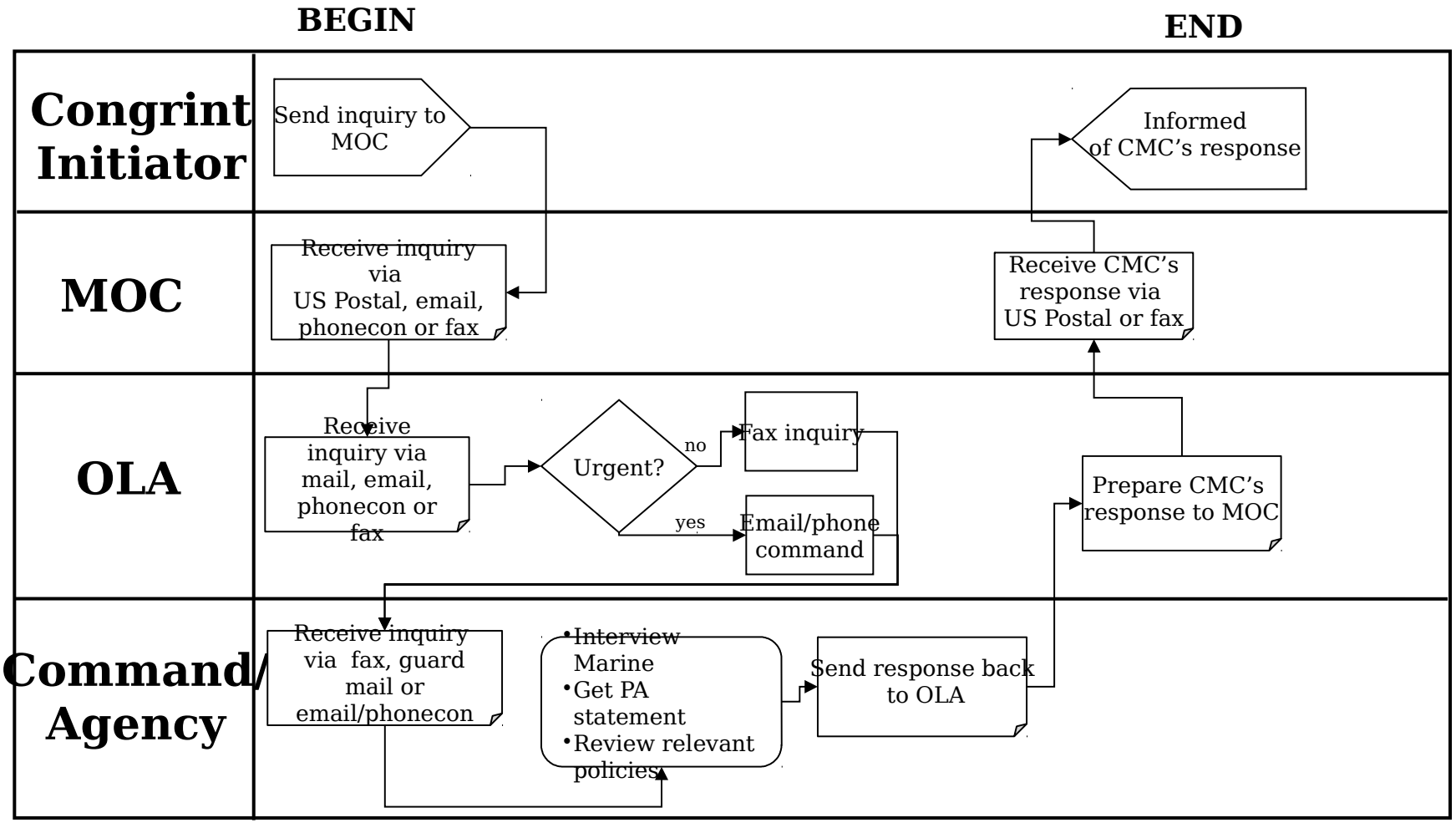
- All correspondence received from Members Of Congress (MOC) or their staffs should be forwarded to CMC (OLA) for a reply.
- Commands must <u>acknowledge receipt</u> (via email or phonecon) of congrints from OLA within 48 hours.
- Response Due Dates:
  - HQMC Departments: 8 working days
  - Marine Corps Recruiting Command: 10 working days
  - CONUS Operating Forces: 8 working days
  - OCONUS Operating Forces: 10 working days
  - OIF/OEF/GWOT: 15 working days
  - H&W Checks: 24-48 hours for status update, 5 working days

Processing Congrints

- CMC (OLA) receives an inquiry from a MOC.
- A tasker (or route sheet for HQMC Agency) is prepared and sent out with copies of the inquiry attached.
- The respective IG/agency receives the tasker/route sheet with a due date back to OLA. Commands/agencies acknowledge receipt.
- The command initiates an inquiry and provides a response/information back to OLA.
  - Interview the Marine/subject of the congrint
  - Obtain written consent from the subject of the congrint to release information
  - Enclose copies of relevant documents in the command response

Congressional Inquiries (Congrints)

Process Flow



- MOC: Member of Congress (Representative/Senator)
- PA: Privacy Act

Processing Congrints (con't)

- For ***urgent*** inquiries, commands will be called/emailed:
  - ✓ **Suicidal ideations**
  - ✓ **Possible child/dependent endangerment**
  - ✓ **Imminent death of immediate family members**
- Emails/phonecon responses on urgent inquiries can be routed through the proper chain of command for endorsements, provided such routing does not unnecessarily delay the response back to OLA
- Normally, urgent inquiries are followed-up with a formal tasker
- OLA should be informed ASAP of mis-directed inquiries

Processing Congrints (con't)

- Under no circumstances will the subject/initiator of a congrint be disciplined, formally or informally, for exercising his/her civil right to contact their Congressional Representative.

- Allegations of retribution/retaliation are taken very seriously and are thoroughly investigated.

The Privacy Act of 1974

- All persons who are the subject of a congrint should be counseled on the provisions of the Act and indicate their desire to waive or not waive their rights.
- The waiver of privacy rights is strictly voluntary.
- Commands must provide a complete response, even if privacy rights are not waived.
- For discharged Marines, OLA will work with Congress to acquire a PA statement.
- OLA will ensure only releasable information is sent to Congress.

The Privacy Act (con't)

- If privacy rights are **waived**:
  - A complete reply will be sent to the MOC (and the MOC will probably send a copy of our response to whomever initiated the congrint)
  - In cases that involve child or spousal support, each person to whom information can be released must be indicated by name
- If privacy rights are **not waived**:
  - A reply will be sent to the MOC indicating the subject of the congrint chose not to waive his/her rights and we cannot divulge any information gathered during the inquiry
  - Information concerning Government Regulations and Policies may be included in the reply to MOC

Summary

- The Secretary of the Navy and CMC has placed a high priority on timely responses to inquiries from MOCs.
- OLA could not function without the steadfast support and cooperation of the IGs, G7s, G1s, Legislative Reps, and HQMC Agencies … so … THANK YOU!

QUESTIONS???